

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19092 161649Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----108321 180235Z /70
R 161538Z AUG 78 ZFD
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2695

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 19092

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PGOV EG US
SUBJECT: KAMEL'S QUERY RE PRESS REPORTS OF DOCUMENTS
ALLEGEDLY GIVEN TO GOE AND OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS

REF: (A) CAIRO 19044, (B) STATE 205783

1. AS REPORTED REF A, TODAY'S AKHBAR AL YOM HAS HEADLINE STORY ABOUT WRITTEN PROPOSALS ALLEGEDLY GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY TO SADAT, BEGIN, HUSSEIN AND ASSAD. STORY IS BASED ON "U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT"'S RECENT INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, STORY HAS CAUSED SOME CONFUSION, WHICH WE HAVE SOUGHT TO CORRECT BY PROVIDING SECRETARY'S EXPLANATORY ANSWER TO QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT (REF B).

2. CONFUSION IS NOT LIMITED TO PRESS AND MFA MIDDLE LEVELS. WHEN MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL TODAY, HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD READ THE AKHBAR AL YOM STORY AND SAID HE WAS FRANKLY PUZZLED. HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA FOR CLARIFICATION. KAMEL WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER HAD IN MIND: (A) THE LETTER TO HIM AND BEGIN WHICH WAS BROUGHT BY THE SECRETARY. IF SO, HAD THERE BEEN A SIMILAR LETTER TO HUSSEIN AND ASSAD? (B) THE NINE POINTS WHICH HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR BEEN GIVEN TO
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GHORBAL AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED IN BRIEFER FORM WITH ATHERTON. IF SO, HAD THESE ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO ASSAD AND HUSSEIN? OR (C) THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES LANGUAGE WHICH THE SECRETARY HAD BROUGHT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ABORTIVE JANUARY POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ANY CLARIFICATION WE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.

3.I INVITED KAMEL'S ATTENTION TO THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES, THAT THE LETTERS OF INVITATION HAD GONE ONLY TO SADAT AND BEGIN. JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA HAD ONLY BEEN INFORMED. KAMEL KNEW OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, BUT SAID HE WAS STILL NOT SURE WHAT THE "U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT" INTERVIEW HAD IN MIND. HE WOULD WELCOME ANY CLARIFICATION. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, DOCUMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ARAB STATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO19092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780337-0446
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780855/aaaabtxa.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 62b5fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 CAIRO 19044, 78 STATE 205783
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1714111
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAMEL'S QUERY RE PRESS REPORTS OF DOCUMENTS ALLEGEDLY GIVEN TO GOE AND OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/62b5fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014